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Honors Humanities

Wiki 8

16 April 2012

1. The next day, over two thousand men guarded Al-Fayoum in protection. While keeping watch, five hundred supposed “peaceful explorers” arrived. Once reaching city center they withdrew their weapons in war. Fortunately, all the troops defeated the attackers except for the commander. In reward for his vision, Santiago receives fifty gold pieces. That night while walking around the camp, he is invited into a tent where the alchemist is located. That night after discussing the future journey, he convinces Santiago to trade his camel for a horse.

In the following days, both Santiago and the alchemist set out for the pyramids. They travel through the desert, but Santiago is uneasy about leaving behind Fatima. The alchemist’s persuasion is once the treasure is found Santiago will be able to provide more for Fatima. After stopping in a campsite for multiple days, Santiago becomes negative towards the journey. In reaction to that, the sun shines more intensely and the wind is much fiercer. After speaking to the sun and the wind, both calm each other and the journey can continue on. He finally arrives and is able to see the pyramids. Once he begins to dig, two refugees discover him and believe he is digging for more gold. The tribal refugees force Santiago to continue digging or he will be killed.

In the end, Santiago wakes up under the Sycamore tree at the monastery, where his sheep often grazed. He understands that God wanted him to see the pyramids and experience things he would have not done. He begins to dig with a shovel under the tree, and finds treasure filled with Spanish coins and jewels. Now he is planning on going on the journey and meeting up with all of the guides that helped him find the treasure. Most importantly, at the end of the story he says, “I’m coming Fatima”.

1. I believe that this section of the book was packed with many important events. It included multiple characters and settings. At times I thought it was sometimes hard to follow, specifically during the talking to the sun and wind parts. I enjoyed this book throughout, but was surprised by the ending. The whole time I assumed he was really living the journey, not dreaming. It was a surprise when he woke up at the church. I am happy that through all the difficulties, he eventually found the real treasure. I would be interested to know whether he takes the journey to Africa; and whether he meets the alchemist and Fatima. In a way it was a good cliff hanger because one is unsure of what lies ahead in Santiago’s future.
2. The characteristic I would give Santiago in this section would be victorious. He continuously strived for success and victory. There were many times when it would have been easier to give up when it became too difficult; or call the journey off because he fell in love with Fatima. He made a commitment to himself and he kept it. In the end, he found his literal treasure. I think that to be victorious is noble and notable, and the pool of people who are in it is small. This quality should be a prestigious attribute to oneself. There are many different levels and types of victories, but everyone must dream to accomplish something.